(v) Constructing new Bund—Left Forwarded Bund to serve as a forward line of defence connecting Road No. 59 (Wazirabad Road) with Alipur Bund of U.P.)

(vi) Providing a new Bund—Right Marginal Embankment to protect villages of Madanpur Khaddar, Melar Bund and Jaitpur.

(vii) Constructing spurs and studs on both sides of river Yamuna to streamline flow and maintain course of river.

(viii) Increasing capacity of Najafgarh drain from Dhansa regulator to Bharat Nagar bridge from 3000 cusecs to 8000 cusecs and 10000 cusecs d/s Bharat Nagar bridge upto outfall into river Yamuna which is nearing completion.

Problem of excess Fluoride in drinking water in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

990. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for relief to the rural areas of Prakasam, Guntur and Krishna Districts of Andhra Pradesh, which are effected by high fluoride content in drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Under the National Drinking Water Mission the problem of excess fluoride in drinking water is tackled under the submission on control of fluorosis. Activities under this submission are fully financed by the Central Government.

At present there is no specific proposal received from the State Government for schemes relating to control of excess fluoride in affected villages. It is, however, proposed to set up 35 defluoridation plants in Andhra Pradesh. This includes 8 plants for Prakasam and 2 for Krishna Districts.

Replacement of food subsidy with Food Stamps

991. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the present food subsidies with food stamps in the context of the experience of other countries in the matter;

(b) if so by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the merits and demerits of both the systems?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to replace the present food subsidy with food stamps.

Merger of A.P. Steel Plant Ltd., Paloncha, with Sponge Iron India Ltd.

992. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge Andhra Pradesh Steels Plant Ltd., Paloncha, Andhra Pradesh with Sponge Iron India Ltd.;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in the matter from one of the joint secretaries of All India Congress Committee; and

(c) what is Government's view on such merger?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) No, Sir. However, a representation in this matter has been received from Secretary, Distt. Congress Committee, Khammam (A.P.).

(c) Merger of A. P. Steels with Sponge Iron India Limited would not help to

resolve the problems of viability of these units.

Review of Urban Land Ceiling (Regulation) Act

993. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current thinking of Government about the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act in view of the experience gained since the passing of the Law;

(b) whether less privileged persons have been deprived of houses because of harsh provisions of the Act; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to tide over this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government have recently requested all the State Governments/UTs to undertake a qualitative review of the implementation of the Act so far, pin-point the problems and difficulties which have been faced in the course of implementation, and formulate specific suggestions, including proposals for amendment to the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976, if found necessary with a view to achieving the principal objectives of the Act. On the basis of the suggestions received from the State Governments, a broad consensus on the solutions to the identified problems and difficulties in the implementation of the Act, would emerge to enable the Government of India to take further action.

(b) and (c) Nothing to this effect has come to the notice of the Government.

Coverage of Sharjah Cup

994. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall coverage of Champions Cricket cup at Sharjah was slipshod;

(b) whether the coverage of the opening match between India-West Indies was beamed only to a few cities;

(c) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan's announcements on sometimes during every match "we are not able to bring you further live telecast because of the non-availability of satellite link" a planless action; and

(d) whether the Doordarshan ditch million of sports lovers in the country in not telecasting the last eight ball play especially when the match was so thrilling in the last moments?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. On Sunday, the 16-10-88, the opening match between India and West Indies was telecast on II Channel of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The highlights were, however, telecast in the National Programme on the same day at 10.20 p.m. for the benefit of the viewers all over the counrty.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Due to prior commitments, the IOC, Washington did not confirm INTELSAT bookings beyond 7.00 p.m. The portion of the match beyond 7.00 p.m. on 22-10-1988, therefore, could not be telecast.

Extension to the wage board

995. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 284 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to extend the period of wage Board for journalists; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Does not arise.